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(ii) to state how many, if any, out of commercial undertakings in the Forest department ever worked with profit until the end of last year?

A.—(i) The list of commercial undertakings at present in the Forest department is—

(1) The Mount Stuart Working Circle.
(2) The Nilambur Valley Forests.
(3) The Chenat Nair Exploitation Scheme.

(ii) The Nilambur valley forest concern is working at a profit and the profit earned in 1927–28 is Rs. 1,94,837. The Mount Stuart working concern worked at a profit of Rs. 18,961 in 1925–26.

Employment of agents in England and other foreign countries for handling Madras timbers.

* 289 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the terms on which agents are employed in England and the other foreign countries for handling Madras timbers and finding markets for them;

(*b*) the terms on which Messrs. Howard Brothers & Co., London, were appointed as agents until last year; and

(*c*) whether Government propose to invite applications for the several agencies before filling up any of them?

A.—(*a*) There are no such agents now.
(*b*) The agency was terminated in December 1926. The Government do not propose to publish the terms now.
(*c*) No.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to clause (*b*) to my question as to the terms on which Messrs. Howard Brothers & Co. were appointed as agents, the reply is that the agency was terminated in December 1926 and that the Government do not propose to publish the terms now. May I know the reasons why?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Because the contract itself terminated in 1926 and it is not in the public interests to publish the terms now."

Forest Panchayats

Consideration of the Board's Standing Order regarding Forest Panchayats.

* 290 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Board's Standing Order regarding Forest Panchayats has been framed and considered by the Government;

(*b*) whether he is prepared to publish it for consideration by those affected; and

(*c*) whether he will state what it is?

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) The draft Standing Order is still under the consideration of the Government.
(*b*) The suggestion will be considered.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know for how long this Standing Order has been under the consideration of the Government ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I cannot remember the exact period."

Irrigation

Repairs to the supply channel in Kurnool district.

* 291 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state in reference to answers given to questions Nos. 397, 938 and 1619 on 27th August 1927, 31st October 1927 and 28th February 1928 and the subsequent communication to the Council published at page 119 of No. 1 of Vol. XLIV of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council regarding repairs to the supply channel in Kurnool district—

(*a*) whether the Collector revived the concession for the clearance as per the suggestion of the Executive Engineer in his No. 6218 of 1st December 1927 ;

(*b*) what steps were taken to intimate the concession to the people of the villages concerned ;

(*c*) whether the channel was examined and repairs executed as per the suggestion of the Executive Engineer in paragraph 5 of the said letter ; and

(*d*) whether observation of the surplus from the two tanks has been started so that reliable information may be collected to consider whether further work in the way of enlarging the channel may be taken up ?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) The Government have not the information but have called for a report.

Examination of derelict tanks in Kurnool district by the Tank Restoration Scheme Party.

* 292 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what derelict tanks in the Kurnool district have so far been examined by the newly set up Tank Restoration Scheme Party ;

(*b*) what tanks have been selected for being reinstated ;

(*c*) in how many cases estimates have been prepared ; and

(*d*) in how many cases sanctions have been accorded and work begun ?

A.—The Government have not the information but have called for it.

Report on the Gudempad project.

* 293 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he has received the final report in regard to the Gudempad project ; and

(*b*) if he has, what it is ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No. The examination of the project is not expected to be completed before January 1930.